



Phoenix and Anne of the Rainbow Tribe during a mass trespass of a site on the proposed M11 link road.

Tribe's quest to save the planet

TOM FOX'S parents are worried. Their son has left his sensible job, had a breakdown and joined the Rainbow Tribe, a loose-knit group of New Age followers whose alternative life-style is powerfully portrayed in *Modern Times: The Tribe* (BBC2, 9pm).

Tom's mother is devastated. She is struggling to overcome her natural prejudice against "the enemies of the Establishment", those raggle-taggle hippies the middle-classes love to hate.

She says: "People are insecure when they are confronted by things they don't recognise, and the way to cope with that insecurity is to put up a barrier."

Producer Marc Munden peers over that barrier in tonight's film. Viewers see the Tribe battling vainly to save their home, a squat in Camden, North London.

There are petitions and appeals to a bemused community policeman, who obviously dislikes being hugged by New Age mystics. But, eventually, the bailiffs arrive. The Tribe ends up on the pavement.

makes the Tribe's trespassing activities a criminal offence. Further confrontation with the police is inevitable. The Tribe's spokesman, Phoenix, says: "When people look back on the Nineties they will say who were the real criminals? Was it the people who tried their hardest to do something about the environment? Or was it the people who had everything but did nothing?"

The Tribe's involvement in the campaign against the M11 motorway extension brings an even bigger challenge — a siege of almost medieval proportions in a terrace of run-down houses. There are ugly confrontations with bailiffs and police as the demonstrators are pulled away from earth-moving equipment and dragged from the rooftops.

The enactment of the Criminal Justice Act

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